

# DARK SKY FESTIVAL

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

July 25, 26, 27

## **FRIDAY, JULY 25**

10:00am to 11:00am

The City Dark Film

Lodgepole Visitor Center

The City Dark is a feature documentary about light pollution and the disappearing night sky. It premiered in competition at the 2011 South by Southwest Film Festival, where it won the Jury Prize for Best Score.

10:00am to 11:00am

Water Rocket Launch

Lake Kaweah Heritage Visitor Center

Join Robert Leonard at beautiful Lake Kaweah and build and launch your own water rockets. Learn how to recycle carbonated beverage bottles into high flying rockets that use only water and compressed air for fuel.

10:00am to 1:00pm

Kids Activities

Foothills Visitor Center

11:00am to 12:00pm

Is There Life On Other Worlds?

Crystal Cave

In celebration of the Dark Sky Festival, this special cave tour introduces how biological research in extreme environments, such as the depths and darkness of caves, may help astronomers determine whether life exists beyond Earth. Tickets required and must be purchased at the Foothills or Lodgepole Visitor Center. Regular Cave ticket prices apply.

1:00pm to 2:00pm

Water Rocket Launch

Lake Kaweah Heritage Visitor Center

Join Robert Leonard at beautiful Lake Kaweah and build and launch your own water rockets. Learn how to recycle carbonated beverage bottles into high flying rockets that use only water and compressed air for fuel.

1:30pm to 3:30pm

International Dark Sky Association

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Stop by the International Dark Sky Association booth at the Lodgepole Visitor Center throughout the weekend to pick up information and brochures about reducing light pollution your home and community. Jack Sales of the IDA will be available to answer questions about the organization throughout the weekend.

2:00pm to 3:00pm

The City Dark Film

Lodgepole Visitor Center

The City Dark is a feature documentary about light pollution and the disappearing night sky. It premiered in competition at the 2011 South by Southwest Film Festival, where it won the Jury Prize for Best Score.

3:00pm to 4:00pm

Is There Life On Other Worlds?

Crystal Cave

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3:00pm to 4:00pm

Our Place In The Universe

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Sizes and distances can be mind boggling in astronomy. The distances are so great we even invented our own units. In this workshop we'll build some scale models to help you put it all in perspective. Presented by Suzy Gurton from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

4:00pm to 5:00pm

Nightsapes: Using Your Camera After Dark

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Amateur imagers are capturing the beauty of the night sky with simple digital cameras and a tripod. Come see an introduction to the how-tos of nighttime photography using standard digital cameras and free and low cost software. Covered topics include cameras and equipment, subject selection, composition, focusing, exposure, and bringing out the best of your images. Presented by Alex McConahay of the Riverside Astronomical Society.

4:30pm to 5:30pm

Wilderness Speaks

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Join GIS Specialist and National Park Service Night Sky Team Leader Dan Duriscoe as he shares stories about the night sky in Sequoia and Kings Canyon Park wilderness.

5:00pm to 7:00pm

America The Beautiful At Night:

An Evening With Wally Pacholka

Wuksachi Lodge

Join professional photographer Wally Pacholka for an evening of photographs, appetizers drinks and stories. Wally will offer some tips for how he was able to capture some of his spectacular pictures in America's National Parks at night.

6:00pm to 8:00pm

Meet NASA Astronauts

Three Rivers Presbyterian Church

8:30pm to 9:30pm

Design A Life For Yourself: One Little Step At A Time

An Evening With Dr. Story Musgrave

Lodgepole Campground Amphitheatre

Join former NASA astronaut and motivational speaker, Dr. Story Musgrave as he shares his dramatic and personal experiences from farm kid to airplane mechanic to pilot to trauma surgeon to rocket man to lead mechanic on the design and repair of the Hubble Telescope.

8:30pm to 9:30pm

Navigating The World Wide Web Of Stars!

Hospital Rock

What do we lose when our stars are lost? Our culture! Join Ranger Amir on a voyage starting at the North Pole and ending at the South Pole, stopping all over the world, as we explore celestial navigation and culture through stories! See constellations like the Big Dipper in a new 'light' and learn how other cultures navigated using the stars. By the end, you might become a celestial navigator too!

9:00pm to 10:00pm

Constellation Tour

Wuksachi Lodge

Get a tour of the night sky by one of Sequoia's interpreters. By the end of the program you will understand the basics of backyard stargazing, have heard ancient and cultural stories about the constellations and enjoyed an evening under one of California's most brilliant skies.

## **SATURDAY, JULY 26**

9:00am to 10:00am

Meet NASA Astronauts

Wuksachi Amphitheatre

10:00am to 11:00am

The City Dark Film

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

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10:00am to 11:00am

Water Rocket Launch

Lake Kaweah Heritage Visitor Center

Join Robert Leonard at beautiful Lake Kaweah and build and launch your own water rockets. Learn how to recycle carbonated beverage bottles into high flying rockets that use only water and compressed air for fuel.

10:00am to 1:00pm

Kids Activities

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

10:00am to 4:00pm

See Our Sun: Solar Scope Viewing

Lodgepole Visitor Center

The Sun glows with enough energy to give us life and has enough mass to keep us from spinning off into the cosmos. Astronomers will set up their safe solar telescopes so you can see it in its glory. It has spots bigger than the earth and red prominences that leap like flames from its edge. Come spend a few minutes learning a bit about our very own star. Presented by the Riverside Astronomical Society.

10:00am to 11:00am

Wilderness Speaks

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Join GIS Specialist and National Park Service Night Sky Team Leader Dan Duriscoe as he shares stories about the night sky in Sequoia and Kings Canyon Park wilderness.

11:00am to 12:00pm

Our Place In The Universe

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Sizes and distances can be mind boggling in astronomy. The distances are so great we even invented our own units. In this workshop we'll build some scale models to help you put it all in perspective. Presented by Suzy Gurton from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

11:00am to 12:00pm

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11:00am to 12:00pm

2,000 Foot Solar System Hike

Big Trees Trail

They call it "SPACE" for a reason. Come walk a 2,000 foot scale model of the Solar System, learning along the way fascinating facts about our place in the Universe. How hot does it get? How cold? What do we owe to Jupiter? Does Saturn really have rings? How can Han Solo fly through an asteroid field? Why did Pluto get demoted? It is all there for you. Presented by the Riverside Astronomical Society.

12:00pm to 1:00pm

Meet NASA Astronauts

Lodgepole Campground Amphitheatre

1:00pm to 2:00pm

Spectroscope Make & Take

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

In this hands-on workshop, you will construct your own spectroscope, which you can use to see the hidden colors of light as you go on a Spectra Quest. Learn how astronomers figure out the different elements that make up different stars. Presented by Dr. Frederick Nelson.

1:00pm to 2:00pm

Water Rocket Launch

Lake Kaweah Heritage Visitor Center

Join Robert Leonard at beautiful Lake Kaweah and build and launch your own water rockets. Learn how to recycle carbonated beverage bottles into high flying rockets that use only water and compressed air for fuel.

1:30pm to 3:30pm

International Dark Sky Association

Lodgepole Visitor Center

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1:30pm to 2:30pm

Wilderness Speaks

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Join GIS Specialist and National Park Service Night Sky Team Leader Dan Duriscoe as he shares stories about the night sky in Sequoia and Kings Canyon Park wilderness.

2:30pm to 3:30pm

The City Dark Film

Lodgepole Visitor Center

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3:00pm to 4:00pm

Our Place In The Universe

Giant Forest Museum

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4:00pm to 5:00pm

Hitting The Road On Mars

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Since the beginning of time, people have been entranced by the night sky and by our nearest planetary neighbor- Mars. From the early missions to Viking, Pathfinder and the more recent missions – Mars has been (and is) a challenging destination. The Mars Exploration Rovers landed on Mars in January 2004 and have been successfully exploring ever since. Come hear the story of their legacy and our newest rover on Mars- the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity Rover. Curiosity landed on Mars spectacularly in August 2012 and is already making astounding discoveries as she explores the Red Planet. Presented by Z. Nagin Cox.

5:00 to 7:00pm

Design A Life For Yourself: One Little Step At A Time

An Evening With Dr. Story Musgrave

Lodgepole Campground Amphitheatre

Join former NASA astronaut and motivational speaker, Dr. Story Musgrave as he shares his dramatic and personal experiences from farm kid to airplane mechanic to pilot to trauma surgeon to rocket man to lead mechanic on the design and repair of the Hubble Telescope.

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John Muir Lodge

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7:00pm to 8:00pm

Meet NASA Astronauts

Wuksachi Lodge

7:00pm to 8:00pm

Family Campfire

Aliens: Fact or Fiction?

Wuksachi Lodge Amphitheatre

Is anybody out there? Join SFI Naturalist, Mike Springer, at the Wuksachi Campfire for a discussion about the probability of intelligent life in our Universe.

8:00pm to 9:00pm

Ranger Program

Buckeye Flat Campground

9:00pm to 11:00pm

Star Party With Kern County Astronomical Society

Wuksachi Lodge

Sequoia and Kings Canyon Parks give star gazers opportunities to view thousands of stars with the naked eye. With a telescope however, you can glance deeper into the Universe to observe far away galaxies, star clusters, planets and other impressive objects. Join the Kern Astronomical Society and Sequoia naturalists for an evening of telescopes, stories and impressive views of our dark skies.

9:00pm to 10:00pm

Constellation Tour

Panoramic Point Lot- Grant Grove Area

Get a tour of the night sky by one of Sequoia's interpreters. By the end of the program you will understand the basics of backyard stargazing, have heard ancient and cultural stories about the constellations and enjoyed an evening under one of California's most brilliant skies.

## **SUNDAY, JULY 27**

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8:30pm to 9:30pm

From Stars To Universes

Potwisha Amphitheatre

The Universe holds an seemingly infinite number of stars. Explore the life of stars and discuss how their death may be the birth of new universes. Presented by the National Park Service.